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U.S. Citizens Spied On by CIA Abroad

By Warren Brown
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Some Americans living overseas have been targets of U.S.-approved break-ins and electronic surveillance, Central Intelligence Agency Director George Bush said in a sworn statement made public yesterday.

Bush's disclosure is believed to be the first official acknowledgment of U.S. spying on Americans abroad.

His statement was contained in a two-part affidavit taken July 1 at CIA headquarters in Langley, Va. It was filed yesterday in U.S. District Court in New York City in connection with a suit seeking \$87 million in damages filed by a Socialist Workers Party plaintiff against the CIA, the FBI and other federal agencies.

In the suit, the party charges that in its pursuit of legitimate political activities it has been the target of illegal harassment by the federal government. It also is seeking a court order against government surveillance of the party.

Bush's sworn statement, given in response to questions from lawyers handling the party's suit, said:

"The files of the CIA do contain information indicating that certain of the individual plaintiffs . . . were overheard by means of electronic surveillance conducted abroad; and that certain other information, apart from the conversations that were overheard, was acquired as a result of several surreptitious entries that were made into premises abroad . . . which certain of the named plaintiffs had regular access [to] or [in] which they may have had a proprietary interest."

It was not clear from Bush's statement whether CIA agents themselves conducted the break-ins and eavesdropping. Nor was it clear whether the government has discontinued its surveillance of Americans living abroad.

Bush said in the statement that the CIA files contained no information "indicating that the SWP . . . [or] any of the individual plaintiffs . . . have been the subject of electronic surveillance conducted by the CIA in the United States."

The CIA refused to com-

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ment yesterday on any aspect of the affidavit.

"I am not able, under any circumstances, to add to or subtract from an affidavit that is before the court . . . And I'm obviously not going to comment on any affidavit by the director of the Central Intelligence Agency," said Andrew Falkiewicz, an agency spokesman.

Specifics on the government's spying on Americans overseas were contained in a separate "top secret" sworn statement Bush gave to Assistant U.S. Attorney William S. Brandt in New

The CIA director said in a legal memorandum defending his separate statement that secrecy was needed to "protect the sources and methods of the CIA . . . because one of the CIA's principal purposes is to gather intelligence information."

He added: "Disclosure of covert operations would undermine the very operation which is assertedly taken in the national interest. Disclosure may endanger future relations [with foreign countries] as well as expose the participants to personal risks."

Bush's contentions were attacked by Cathy Perkus, an official of the New York-based Political Rights Defense Fund, which is financing the Socialist Workers Party suit.

"The CIA doesn't have the right to burglarize Americans overseas. We believe that Americans don't give up their rights when they cross the borders of the U.S.," she said.

Though Bush's public affidavit contained no specifics, CIA files released that day showed that the agency kept track of virtually all the overseas movements of party leader Peter Camejo from about 1971 to 1974.

The files were released to Camejo under the Freedom of Information Act, which gives citizens the right of access—with certain exemptions—to government documents.

Camejo is the party's 1976 presidential candidate. The CIA said in the heavily censored files he received that the agency monitored his overseas meeting with other Socialist leaders and circulated information about his activities to one of its overseas stations.

A Socialist Workers Party spokesman said yesterday that since the 1960s, and continuing today, party officials "have traveled abroad and rented apartments, including in France and Belgium."

CIA Burglarized Homes Of Americans Abroad

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Associated Press

The Central Intelligence Agency gained information about certain Americans living abroad through burglaries at their homes or offices, CIA Director George Bush said in an affidavit made public yesterday.

It was not clear from the affidavit whether CIA agents themselves conducted the burglaries. A CIA spokesman declined comment, saying it would be inappropriate to elaborate on Bush's statement.

The sworn statement was filed in U.S. District Court in New York in connection with the Socialist Workers party's multimillion-dollar lawsuit against the government intelligence agencies. The party seeks damages for allegedly illegal harassment of political activities.

THE PARTY'S presidential candidate, Leter Camejo, criticized the intelligence-gathering tactics.

"American citizens don't forfeit their constitutional rights when they cross the borders of the United States," he said. "These actions by the CIA are absolutely illegal."

The Political Rights Defense Fund, which is financing the party's lawsuit, released the Bush affidavit and said it shows that CIA agents "burglarized the apartments of American citizens living abroad and may be continuing to do so."

In the affidavit July 1, Bush said CIA files show that information "was acquired as a result of several surreptitious entries that were made into premises abroad as to which certain (party members) had regular access or may have had a proprietary interest."

The CIA director also said agency files "do contain information indicating that conversations of certain (party members) were overheard by means of electronic surveillance conducted abroad."

Bush provided no other details about the number and date of the burglaries and wiretapping.

HE DID not specifically

state whether CIA agents conducted the operations.

The defense fund said Bush's refusal to list the dates of the burglaries and wiretapping "raises the likelihood of very recent or continuing use of these tactics."

Party officials believe that "if these methods had been discontinued some time ago, this information probably would have been included in the affidavit," the defense fund statement said.

The CIA is fighting efforts by party attorneys to obtain details of the burglaries and wiretapping.

In the affidavit, Bush said he submitted a second statement, classified top secret, providing more information about the break-ins and electronic surveillance and arguing that the material includes state secrets which are exempt from disclosure.

Bush's second affidavit was submitted for the judge's private perusal.